



Sedgwick County...
working for you

FACTS...

Sedgwick County Health Department

February 2005

Oral health in Sedgwick County

What is oral health?

Oral health means much more than healthy teeth. Oral diseases and conditions are associated with other health problems. Oral health is integral to the general health and well-being of everyone—from infancy to elderly populations.

Everyone needs to be concerned about preventing dental disease. According to the Surgeon General, increased risks of heart disease and stroke occur in people with gum infections; the risk increases with the severity of the oral infection.

Almost 3 out of every 10 adults over age 65 have lost all of their teeth, primarily because of tooth decay and gum disease, which affects about 25% of U.S. adults.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in America. Untreated tooth decay and disease can affect a child's health if not properly treated.

When should children begin to seek professional dental care?

It is recommended that children should start to see a dentist between 1-3 years of age. Thereafter, a dental appointment is generally recommended every 6 months.

How should infant/toddler teeth be cleaned?

As the first tooth appears, begin cleaning by wiping with a clean, damp cloth every day. When more teeth come in, switch to a small,

How can you improve your oral health?

- Brush at least twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste
- Floss teeth daily
- Avoid sugary snacks—stop the pop and candy
- See your dentist for preventive care every six months
- Drink milk
- Eat more fruits and vegetables

For more information on Oral Health or the Children's Dental Clinic, call 660-7300.

soft toothbrush and brush with a pea-sized portion of fluoride toothpaste. Replace the toothbrush every 3 months.

Who can receive dental care at the Sedgwick County Health Department?

The Children's Dental Clinic provides free dental care to children who are between the ages of 5-15 years old, and who do not have private insurance or Medicaid. The children must attend schools in Sedgwick County, and school nurses make the referral for children to receive dental services.

How many children receive dental services each year at the Children's Dental Clinic?

The number of children who receive dental services fluctuates each year, but on average approximately 700 children benefit from basic dental care services provided at the clinic.

Are there events to recognize National Children's Dental Health month in February?

Yes, since 1987 the Health Department has organized and sponsored *Molardrama*, a children's play for second graders that teaches the importance of dental hygiene habits. Each year, over 5,000 children attend *Molardrama*.

For more information,

Call the
Sedgwick County Health
Department at 660-7300.

Or visit the Sedgwick County website at:
www.sedgwickcounty.org



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